

September 6, 2011

LCA 2 - Sayre 1

Season Record: 4-3-1

District Record: 1-0-0

Win and advance . . . check.

The defending All "A" state champion LCA Lady Eagles received a bye in the first round of the regional All "A" tournament this year because Owen County HS elected not to participate in the regional tournament. With the bye, the Lady Eagles were left to await the winner of the Sayre HS and Frankfort County HS first round game which was won decisively by Sayre HS 5-1. Following the victory, the two teams overcame significant scheduling conflicts even securing an extension by the tournament directors to play the regional final after the announced deadline for doing so. That date, Tuesday September 6th.

Following a full day of rain, the turf at Turner Stadium was in pretty good shape for the night's game. Despite the reasonable playing surface, the temperature was a cool 66 degrees and the rain ranged from a drizzle to steady sheets throughout the second half. While the sugar cubes were sparse, the Eagle faithful were fairly abundant despite the conditions and witnessed a battle without much style but one that resulted in a win.

LCA possessed the ball the majority of the game making crisp movements and passes throughout the midfield but struggled to create quality chances in close. That combined with some outstanding keeper play by Sayre's keeper Johnson, led to a wet and soggy battle. In the first half, Senior Hannah Treadway lofted a crossing pass to the back post which was properly one-timed by the ever present Elise McKinney near post and past Sayre's keeper. That was the lone tally in the first half by either team and was a welcome relief considering LCA had been playing into a strong wind.

In the second half, the Eagles enjoyed the wind at their backs and looked to be running downhill as play was hosted primarily in the Sayre defensive half of the field. Despite these advantages, the Lady Eagles continued their struggles with placing the ball in the back of the net. Throughout the game, the Eagles outshot Sayre 28 to 4 and earned 9 corner kicks to Sayre's 0. While LCA dominated the game statistically, the outcome remained in doubt throughout until Rachel Bertrand's shot deflected off a Sayre defender to an opportunistic Caroline Boone. Boone, whose DNA dictated the outcome, deftly deposited the ball into the back of the net putting the Lady Eagles up by what looked like an insurmountable 2-0 margin. Insurmountable is always a word of concern at soccer games and as fate would have it, Sayre's version of Maddie Mitchell connected on a 40 yard blast high into the wind that dropped just under the crossbar. The shot cut the lead in half and doubled my anxiety. In the end, the Lady Eagles held on for the win.

With that, the LCA Lady Eagles had taken care of business under the lights and remnants of tropical storm Lee, and punched their ticket to the All "A" state tournament quarterfinals for the fifth year in a row. The Lady Eagles will face Louisville Collegiate in the now familiar and recently very friendly confines of Frankfort's Sower Fields.